**People employed in Aqua farms of Andhra Pradesh**

1516. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has done any census of the number of people employed in the aqua farms of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, details of number of workers and farmers employed or involved in MPEDA approved aqua farms in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) whether MPEDA has any plan to extend financial assistance to those facing closure of aqua farms in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) MPEDA has not, for the present, envisaged any plan to extend financial assistance to those facing closure of aqua farms for any State including Andhra Pradesh.

**Import of Fertilizers by MMTC**

1517. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC has been importing fertilizers over the past many years;

(b) the quantum and value of such fertilizers imported by MMTC over the last three years;

(c) whether MMTC has a dealer network in West Godavari and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the quantum of fertilizers allotted to West Godavari and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether there is a proposal to expand activities of MMTC in 1997-98 in this sector; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is annexed. (See below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the period April' 96—Feb., '97 MMTC has sold approximately 5300 MT of DAP in both these Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) and (f) The existing levels of fertilizers business are proposed to be retained in 1997-98.

**Statement**

MMTC is importing urea over the past 20 years as a canalising agency on behalf of Deptt. of Fertilizers. MMTC is also importing fertilizers such as MOP, DAP, etc. for sale in domestic market since" 1994-95. The quantum and value of such fertilizers imported during the last 3 years are given below:

Canalised Urea

| Year | Quantity (LMT) | Value (Rs. Crores) |
|---|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 29.60 | 1546.89 |
| 1995-96 | 25.42 | 1893.22 |
| 1996-97 (Till 2M/97) | 12.35 | 820.09 |